

## ABSTRACT

A recording/reproducing apparatus and control method thereof capable of easily recording and reproducing all kinds of information obtained from broadcasts, communications and recording mediums of all types, and further capable of applying suitable restrictions on use of digital information. A hard disk drive and a video recorder/player can both record information reproduced by a DVD player and information received by a satellite tuner. When restrictions on recording such as billing conditions or limits on the number of recordings were placed in the control data, such restrictions are recorded as the discriminator ID. When the videotape cassette is then extracted from the video recorder/player, the discriminator ID is decoded and, all or a portion of the recorded contents of the hard disk identical to the information recorded on the videotape are deleted as needed. The unlimited distribution or unlimited retention of the contents recorded on the hard disk is in this way prevented, and problems such as involving copyrights are eliminated.